

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, October 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. PARKER HOUSE, Boston, Saturday, Oct. ? 1896. (Postmarked Oct. 2nd) Dearest,

Many thanks for your letter which I found waiting for me as a welcome here. I am so glad that the "askew" theory was at least not entirely wrong, it seemed to me such a pretty one, and one marking an advance.

I am now most anxious to hear about Mr. McCurdy's machine. I know how impatiently and anxiously he has been waiting for that thing for nine months now, and how resolutely he has kept himself from saying anything about it except once or twice. I do hope that the result of the trial will be such as to encourage you and him to go ahead in the belief that there is some practical and pecuniary result to be obtained.

Both Elsie and I had a good time in Bethel. Miss True is as happy in having a little home of her own as Lina, but with far less means, and with much harder work on her part.

I am conscious that my language is about the most mixed I ever used, but you will know what I mean, and my thoughts are really only half here on the paper. I am thinking of you far away, fast asleep now I hope, of Mr. McCurdy asleep too, of Lina working in her house of Miss True in hers, of Daisy and Mamma and chiefly of those poor people in Cambridge. My telephone message last night from Aunt Carrie was unsatisfactory, she said "he had had a comfortable night" which was well as far as it went, but I wanted to know how his condition now compared with that say a week ago when I last heard. 2 I cannot make up my mind to accept the fact of his inevitable death now. It does not seem as if I could sit down to watch a child of mine slowly, surely slipping from me without making desperate efforts to hold him. If one batch of doctors give him up, why not try others, why at least

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not remember that sunlight is said to be fatal to germs and take him where he can lie all day long and night long out in the fresh air in Arizona if need be. Of course this may be the most merciful way of treating Gardiner, letting him stay where he is comfortable, but it seems so heart-breaking to submit to the slow destruction of a human being by these little animals and do nothing to try and check them.

This morning we make some necessary additions to our wardrobe and then go out to Cambridge.

Elsie is much better, she had a bilious attack in Beinn Bhreagh which made her seem much more nervous than usual, but since then she has been very well and I can testify that she sleeps most quietly and stilly. Take care of yourself my own dear husband, I love you.

Ever your own,